

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:DPREHFUSS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072271

FOLLOWING REPAT STATE 072271 ACTION ABIDJAN INFO ACCRA MAR 31

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072271

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI IV GH

SUBJECT: ICAF VISIT TO IVORY COAST

REF: STATE 70051; ABIDJAN 2591

1. NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED THAT DUE TO UNUSUAL SCHEDULING OF CONFERENCES AND OTHER VISITS IN APRIL AND MAY, ICAF VISIT AS WELL AS THAT OF NWC COULD NOT BE ACCOMMODATED THIS YEAR. THIS UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT AT THIS LATE DATE POSES SPECIAL PROBLEMS FOR BOTH COLLEGES. GIVEN BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS COUPLE WITH AIRLINE SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES AND SPECIAL EXCURSION RATES, ICAF HAS LITTLE FLEXIBILITY IN SCHEDULING THIRD WEST AFRICAN COUNTRY TO COMBINE WITH VISITS ALREADY ARRANGED TO SENEGAL AND GHANA. SWITCH FROM NIGERIA TO IVORY COAST WOULD OBVIATE THESE DIFFICULTIES WHICH DO NOT APPEAR CAPABLE OF SOLUTION IN SELECTING LIBERIA, FOR EXAMPLE, OR OTHER SUITABLE CHOICES.

2. DEPARTMENT THEREFORE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY EFFORTS ACCOMMODATE VISITS BY BOTH COLLEGES. AS EMBASSY WILL
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RECALL FROM SUCCESSFUL ICAF VISIT LAST YEAR, THEIR GROUP

IS SMALL (16), INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN INDUSTRY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES, AND DOES NOT EXPECT AS MATTER OF COURSE TO SEE HIGHEST OFFICIALS. ICAF VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN MID-MAY (ARRIVING NOON MAY 13 AND DEPARTING AFTERNOON MAY 17) AND THUS WOULD COME

ABOUT THREE WEEKS AFTER BRIEF NWC VISIT IN APRIL. WHILE REALIZING VISITS BY BOTH COLLEGES MAY PLACE SOME BURDEN ON EMBASSY STAFF, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IN LIGHT UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN THIS CASE THAT ACCOMMODATION DESIRABLE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

3. FOR ACCRA: IF ICAF VISIT TO IVORY COAST CAN BE APPROVED, AIRLINE SCHEDULING AND EXCURSION RATES INVOLVED WOULD DICTATE VISIT ABIDJAN FOLLOWING STAY IN SENEGAL AND BEFORE VISIT TO GHANA. THIS WOULD NECESSITATE NEW ARRIVAL DATE IN ACCRA OF MAY 17 AND DEPARTURE ON MAY 22 INSTEAD OF MAY 14-17 VISIT AS PRESENTLY PLANNED. IF EMBASSY SHOULD PERCEIVE OBJECTION TO SUCH CHANGE ADVISE SOONEST WITH INFO ABIDJAN. KISSINGER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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